



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

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July 9, 2007

The Honorable Patricia M. Blevins
State Senator
Legislative Hall
Dover, Delaware

Dear Senator Blevins:

I am pleased to inform you that the Department recently obtained results from the soil testing for dioxin at the former Hercules Golf Course I committed to performing in my June 8, 2007 letter to you. Of the soil samples taken, the results indicate that none of them was significantly above the detection limit of one part per trillion. The time required to obtain these samples results reflects the fact that we used a specialized analytical laboratory other than our normal independent laboratory. There are only a few of these specialized labs in the country qualified to perform dioxin sampling.

Because the results of the sample analysis are well below the action level set by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry indicated in my June 8, 2007 letter to you. Although we performed this sampling and analysis in an objective manner, the results are not surprising because all of the scientific literature reviewed previously indicates that there was no reason, based on all available information, to expect any dioxin residues.

At this point we intend to finalize the remedial action plan proposed in March 2007. The final plan will be changed somewhat to incorporate some of the changes recommended through public comments, such as the inclusion of remedial action objectives for additional contaminants (lead and mercury) beyond the contaminant of concern initially proposed to be used as an indicator (arsenic). In addition, remedial action work plan, worker health and safety plan, and soil management plan have been strengthened to include additional fugitive dust controls and on-site monitoring by DNREC, as you requested. Following finalization of the proposed plan, we will forward it to New Castle County for their action regarding the Record Plan approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Air and Waste Management Division Director, Jim Werner if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Hughes'.

John A. Hughes,
Secretary

pc: Rep. Deborah Hudson
Jeffrey Bullock, NCC
Tim Sheldon, Councilman NCC

Delaware's Good Nature depends on you!